Government and AAI are required. Further action in the matter is contingent on signing of the MoU and transfer of additional land from the State Government to AAI.

Modernization of non-metro airports

185. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme has been formulated to modernize 35 non-metro airports;

(b) if so, the details of such airports;

(c) whether contracts for modernisation of the airports have been awarded;

(d) if so, the details thereof, airport wise;

(e) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) *and (b) Government of India has decided to modernize 35 non-metro airports.* These airports are located at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, Goa, Madurai, Mangalore, Agatti, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur, Agra, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Jammu and Pune. The air side including Terminal Building of all these airports would be developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI). However, the city side development of the 24 out of 35 non-metro airports would be taken up through Private Sector Participation.

(c) to (f) Works for the Terminal Buildings and air side facilities have been finalised and are taken up by AAI. The development of all the 35 non-metro airports will be completed by 2010.

Recruitment of pilots

186. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any acute shortage of pilots in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement of pilots for the year 2015;

(c) whether pilots are recruited from foreign countries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to fill up the vacancies indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) With the exponential growth in the Indian civil aviation industry there is an increase in the number of scheduled and non scheduled operators with many of them going in for a fleet expansion programme including new types of aircraft. This has manifested in shortage of pilots.

(b) With the present growth of aviation industry it has been estimated that in the next five years 5000 additional pilots would be required for scheduled operations and 1000 pilots for non scheduled and private operations.

(c) and (d) To overcome the shortage of pilots, foreign pilots are employed by the airline operators after validation of their foreign licences.

(e) Recruitment of pilots is the prerogative of individual airline operator. The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.

Mandatory flying checks for pilots

187. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some flying instructors are clearing aspiring pilots without conducting mandatory flying checks that test their competence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to stop such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) It has been reported in the Times of India on 6th November, 2007 that Capt. Ashim Taxali, Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) of M/s. Carver Aviation Academy has cleared some student pilots without their flight test. An enquiry has been ordered by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to investigate the malpractices reported in Carver Aviation Academy. The final investigation report is awaited.

(c) Capt. Ashim Taxali has been removed from the CFI position in M/s Carver Aviation Academy pending final investigation. The position of CFI has been taken over by Capt. A.K. Mohan. Show Cause notices have been served to Capt. Ashim Taxali and the student pilots who were falsely cleared by him. Further action will be taken after the finalisation of the investigation.

Casualty in the security area at Delhi Airport

188. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ms. Sanskriti, an Aeronautic Engineer of Deccan Airlines was found killed in the security area of IGI Airport, Delhi on 22.10.07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether she was on duty at the moment of her death;

(d) whether the mystery of her death has been solved;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 22.10.2007 while inspecting the satellite apron,